

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust



Our Community
ON THE AIR
with



Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust's Mission

To ensure the equitable participation of Blacks in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions and economic development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.

Vision for the Future

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ON THE COVER

The community was *On The Air* as MMAP, Hot 105 and WEDR hosted The *Community Media Roundtable* on June 7, 2008 at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium operated by Miami-Dade County Parks. Over 200,000 listeners from the Palm Beaches to the Florida Keys were tuned in as the music stopped and the audience checked-in during the live broadcast. General manager Jerry Rushin and Cox Radio made it all happen as Traci Cloyd and Cheryl Mizell along with the "Fly Jock" Tom Joyner provided the community the opportunity to *Speak Out*.



Vision for the Future

Greetings as the new Chairperson for Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT), I would like to introduce myself and express the agency's vision. Having past history as a board member of Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust transitioning into Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust, I am excited about our new roll as advocates for change and improvement for this flourishing community.

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust will set out to advocate action in order to accomplish goals and deliver the best quality of service to Miami-Dade County. Through my leadership, I will assist MDEAT to carry out its mission. The vision of the Trust is to focus on advocacy in order to educate and empower our community towards achieving a better quality of life.

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust has four main areas that we will focus our advocacy on, in the upcoming year. These areas are Housing, Criminal Justice, Health, and Economic Development. We have setup Action Committees in each of these areas. These MDEAT Action Committees involve the voice of our community and through this, we can get to the root of local issues. Through advocating, we can assist the community to take action, make changes in the community, and in return make a difference in the lives of many.

As we move forward in this coming year, we will make sure that we focus on the needs of the local community and tailor our programs to assist everyone in the County. I invite and encourage everyone in our community to participate, and speak up for what they believe in.

And, as we advocate for the community, we move forward into our future endeavors and accomplish our goals. I invite you to join us in our initiatives and support our vision for the coming year. MDEAT intends to make an impact, and make Miami-Dade County an better place to live.

Sincerely,

Robert Holland, Esq.
Chairperson

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Meet Our New Board



Robert Holland, Esq.
Chairperson



Marc A Douthit, Esq.
Vice-Chair



Natasha K. Malls
Second Vice-Chair



Ron Butler



Stephanye Johnson



Richard Kuper, Esq.



Barbara B. Montero



Carlos E. Morales



Rev. Dr. Walter T.
Richardson



Tamika R. Robinson



Treska V. Rodgers



Leigh Toney



John E. Dixon, Jr.
Executive Director

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Executive Director's Perspective

In an effort to address the needs of the Black community, the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) has continued to provide our community with programs and advocacy initiatives that are geared to enhance the quality of life for citizens in underserved areas. It is our mission to ensure the equitable participation of Blacks in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions, economic development and initiatives in Miami Dade County. To this end, the Trust has formed Action Committees in the core areas of youth, housing and economic development to improve the lives of our residents. These Committees are an exciting addition to a process that includes community participation and involvement.

The Trust has undergone a very positive change in the leadership with the advent of a new Board of Trustees to provide policy and direction for MDEAT. These volunteers bring a wealth of experience from the public and private sectors in the economic development, housing, education, criminal justice arenas. As a re-emerging Miami-Dade County agency, we are looking forward to working with numerous neighborhoods to advocate for change through collaborations and partnerships.

I want to thank all the supporters of the newly formed agency. Your commitment and involvement is a key ingredient to our success. On behalf of the MDEAT staff and myself, I am very enthusiastic about the future of the organization and the positive impact that we desire to make in this community.

Regards,

John E. Dixon, Jr.
Interim Executive director

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MDEAT INITIATIVES

Housing

As 2008 approached, it marked the beginning of the most significant swing in housing prices in decades. After an extraordinary three-year rapid appreciation of housing values in Miami-Dade County and South Florida, the housing market crashed. This coupled with a severe economic recession and unemployment rates that remained above ten percent caused an unprecedented number of mortgage foreclosure filings and families losing their homes to foreclosure or selling via short sales.

But opportunity arises from the biggest of disasters...Interest rates have remained near record lows and housing prices have declined by over fifty percent in many areas of Miami-Dade County which resulted in a substantial amount of available affordable housing stock.

As 2009 approached, then passed, and as this trend continued, a ripple affect was felt that nearly paralyzed the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust's Metro Miami Action Plan Homeownership Assistance Program (MMAP HAP). High demand combined with a drop in Documentary Surtax Program revenue of nearly sixty percent necessitated a program review which resulted in a number of modifications to HAP guidelines and procedures.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

With the collapse of the housing, credit, mortgage and mortgage securities markets, credit standards have risen significantly and down payment requirements have been tightened. While many subsidy program funds continue to be slashed, the few thousand dollars that



*HAP staff with the
Javier family*

MDEAT's HAP provides often makes the ultimate difference between a First-Time Homebuyer being able to realize their dream of homeownership or having to continue to rent.

Although HAP continues to collaborate with other Miami-Dade County and local municipalities via outreach efforts and leveraging their subsidy program dollars, an increasing number of First-Time Homebuyers just need MMAP HAP assistance to be able to make their home purchases. Because of the drastic drop in housing prices, this is being accomplished at all income levels.

Longer mortgage processing timeframes are the result of more stringent credit guidelines. The continuing decline in property values is causing additional appraisal and credit file reviews. The outcome – higher levels of conditionally approved loans not closing. The lesson learned – “You’re not closed until the keys hit your hand”.

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*HAP Certification
Workshop training*

EVALUATION & CHANGE

We take pride in being able to adapt HAP guidelines and procedures to current mortgage and real estate market conditions to the greatest extent possible while adhering to primary goals of keeping the program accessible to potential borrowers and industry professionals, and compliant with credit and due diligence standards.

Market and funding conditions have dictated adjustments in both regards. The steady and precipitous drop in Surtax revenue necessitated changes that had a considerable impact on the ability (or lack thereof) to meet lender demand, and thus the number of new homebuyers we were ultimately able to assist.

After a sweeping record of over \$8.5 million funded and over 750 new HAP homeowners in the 2007 fiscal year, the large, multi-million carryover balance did not exist (from \$6.5 million to under \$1 million), Surtax revenue dropped by over a million dollars (from \$3.8 million to \$2.75 million), and housing prices had yet to begin what was to be its fast and far-reaching decline. So as fiscal year 2008 began, MMAP HAP was not opened for funding for the first time since the program was founded.

The goal was to re-invent the HAP without dismantling its more appealing attributes.

- The amount of funds borrowers are now eligible to receive is the lower of four percent (4%) of sale price or \$7500
- A new, lender file submission system was established to provide needed tracking, but guarantee equitable access to available funds
- Submission dates were established so that monthly funding analysis could occur to insure proper cash flow maintenance
- Forms were updated with enhancements to guidelines to add clarity for due diligence and uniformity of documentation in lender file submissions
- Internal flow process and procedures were also generated.

In the end, it accomplished better tracking and risk assessment similar to what the entire mortgage industry was undergoing. The outcome included:

- Monthly monetary and Documentary Surtax funding tracking and pipeline reconciliation against Accounting Dept. FAMIS records
- Open and fair access to available funds and the same two-week period to separate monthly file submissions from the needed monthly funding analysis
- Post Closing tracking and filing maintained by same processing and funding Case Manager
- Tracking and monitoring of foreclosure activity on existing HAP pipeline
- Tracking and processing of forgiven loans (those HAP loans that have reached their 10-year maturity)

All previous program participants (lenders, realtors and closing agents) as well as new program participants and partners were trained or re-trained as of April 2008 at which point MMAP HAP was re-opened.

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HAP TURNING POINT

Surtax revenue continued to decline, from \$2.75 million in FY 2007 to \$1.86 million in FY 2008 and to a record low \$0.74 million in FY 2009...a mere 40% of the previous year mark. Also on the decline, repayments that had been \$850k to \$1MM annually over the previous four years tumbled to less than \$100k. Budget shortfalls at the state level caused legislators to re-allocate Sadowski Act Trust funds to cover other state budget deficits, thus reducing available funds for county and local municipality programs.

Accommodations for acceptance of foreclosed corporate contracts and lender approved short sales have been made with stipulations designed to protect against fraud and misrepresentation. This permits borrowers to use HAP funds to purchase foreclosed property as the market has become flooded with these properties and because they have provided the best deal for lower income and cash strapped First-Time homebuyers. While we were able to exceed the number of expected closed loans by nearly 25% (224 vs. 180), demand for HAP funds far exceeded funds availability, thus for the first time in HAP history, borrower requests for funds by lenders could not be accommodated.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

As the housing market begins to rebound, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to Miami-Dade County and several municipalities have made subsidy funds for first-time borrowers available to purchase foreclosed properties.

Surtax revenue has risen for the first time in two years. However, a change in the Documentary Surtax legislation will limit funds for administrative purposes to 10% of disbursed program funds. This will necessitate finding other revenue sources and innovative techniques to cover even very lean overhead expenses. This will be by far the biggest chal-



lenge to the continued success and perhaps existence of MMAP-HAP.

*HAP Lottery Initiative
purchase home*

*The Action Committee Process –
A Historical Perspective*

Recommended Action 110 [1] was established to create a bill to have a portion of the documentary surtax stamp monies used to finance the purchase, rehabilitation or construction of homes in Dade County.

In June of 1983, through the efforts of State representative Carrie P. Meek and the Florida legislature House Bill 336 was passed that gave Dade County the discretion of doubling (collection of additional tax on documents recording the sale of property) the Surtax on certain real estate transactions. To this end, the Dade County Special Housing program receives documentary stamp tax dollars, which was a Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) recommended action for affordable housing in 1984.

The MMAP Action Committee directed its efforts in 1994 to secure 8% of the Documentary Surtax funds it had established in 1984 to address the issues surrounding affordable housing. So, in 1995, MMAP created the Housing Assistance Program as an equal opportunity housing lender designed

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subsidy program to increase the number of low to moderate income homebuyers in Miami-Dade County using Florida Documentary Stamp Surtax funds to reduce the up-front financial costs associated with purchasing and financing a home.

A New Beginning – The Housing Advocacy Committee (HAC)

It is through our past that we find the pathway to the future. Challenging times and challenging issues have brought MDEAT back to its MMAP roots. In early 2008, Housing used Focus Group interaction as a means to receive input and provide feedback to our HAP Partners when the program was re-designed. The relationship and collaboration with the mortgage and real estate professionals, closing agencies and attorneys, and housing counseling agencies and CBO's (Community Based Organizations) has always been an integral part of the marketing, outreach and thereby success of the HAP that stretches well beyond just the file submission and funding part of the process.

Through our partners' interaction and input along with drawing on feedback from the public, subcommittees are formed to solicit ideas from any and every public or private group or individuals that they feel provides the best recommendations and/ or solutions. Initial subcommittees are the Resource Committee, the PR/ Marketing & Outreach Committee and the Pre-Purchase and Affordability Committee. Public forums and Action Items will be generated out of each subcommittee, with more subcommittees or subgroups being formed as deemed necessary to affect a needed action.

STATISTICS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Homeownership Lottery Initiative

The beginning of the 2007-08 fiscal year saw the wrap-up of the MMAP HAP Lottery Initiative, with the last borrower, Jedidiah &

Tracy Herring closing in October 2007. In total, \$1,818,075 was distributed to twenty deserving families. While this initiative drew criticism from some circles, these low and very low income families were given an opportunity that otherwise would have never been possible during the extreme height of the housing sale price bubble in South Florida. These appreciative recipients still remain in their houses today.

The Mirage at Sailboat Cove

This affordable housing development project located at the corner of NW 17th Avenue and 143rd Street in Opa-Locka saw the first of its four phases completed with 32 of the 39 available units closed in Phase I. The minimum of seven (7) affordable units closed in Phase I was not only exceeded, but nearly doubled. Many of those new homeowners also received funds from the county's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED). Financial and economic hardship beset the Sailboat Cove project, which has since gone into receivership, with a court appointed Receiver overseeing the project until an arrangement can be attained to continue its development.

A Step-Up Initiative

MMAP at the time, partnered with the Housing Finance Authority (Miami Dade HFA) to begin a collaborative effort name "A Step-Up". A designated higher level of MMAP-HAP funds (\$25,000) was allotted to low or very low income first-time homebuyers that purchased in designated Targeted Urban Areas (TUA's). Without the ability to set aside a special allocation of funds, the reduction in Surtax revenues caused the "A Step-Up" initiative funding to be suspended after three funded and closed loans.

District 3 Teachers Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) Initiative

The District 3 Teachers Initiative marked a way

to help struggling inner-city “Zone” schools retain some of its teachers. After research and discussion with District 3 Commissioner Audrey Edmonson and Dade County Public Schools (DCPS), \$400,000 was allocated to provide sixteen (16), teachers with \$25,000 in HAP downpayment and closing costs assistance. These full-time, first-time homebuyer, DCPS teachers had to teach in a school located in the geographical area encompassed by Commission District 3 AND agree to remain as teachers in that district area for at least five (5) years without requesting a voluntary transfer to another school. Nearly half of this initiative’s \$400,000 funding allocation has been disbursed, with eight teachers having closed using \$197,000. Two well attended outreach events were held to inform teachers, and with a new school year getting underway, we look forward to filling the remaining slots and hope to find resources to expand the initiative.

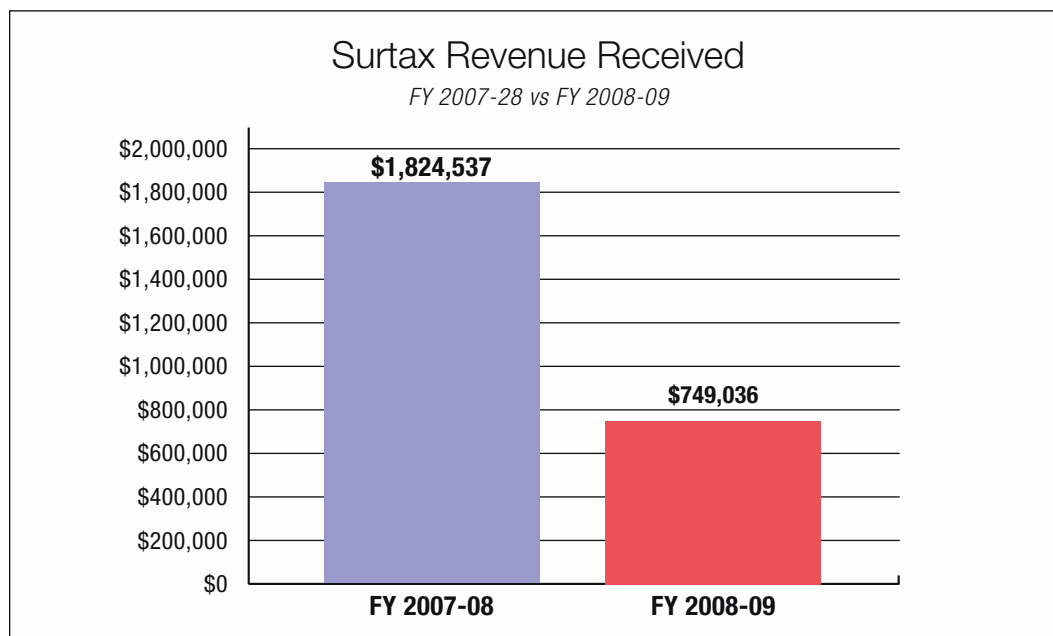
TRAINING AND OUTREACH PARTNERS

With the revamping of the MMAP HAP, all program participants were required to attend a recertification workshop. This workshop

on HAP, general subsidy programs and borrower qualification criteria are generally held every 6-8 weeks to certify desiring new participants and provide a “refreshewr” to an seeking an update.

Individual mortgage lenders or mortgage brokers must attend to get certified to submit files for borrowers and title/ closing agents must be approved to close MMAP-HAP files. It is highly recommended that realtors and developers also attend, but it is not required at this time. Signed Participation Agreements are executed plus individual and/ or company licenses are gathered for participation monitoring and tracking purposes. The economic impact and training of these industry professionals to over 900 attendees have resulted in over 600 registered HAP participants.

We also partnered with various certified housing counseling agencies in the delivery of homebuyer education which is required of all recipients of subsidy program funds as well as various outreach and educational workshops, seminars and community affordable housing forums. MDEAT, conducts, coordinates and/ or participates in no less than twenty (20+) such event on an annual basis.



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Economic Development

The South Dade Small Business Initiative (SDI) awarded \$5,000 grants to several small businesses in the South Dade Community. After, approximately one year after these businesses were revisited to see the effects of the grants made, as well as, the economic impact in a suffering economy. These Businesses employ less than 20 people and in some cases are family owned and operated. The funds allocated to each company provided a stimulus in the wake of a challenging economy. The businesses used the grant to purchase equipment, increase the level of technology needed to automate their company, and to offset the cost of their commercial insurance. In addition, the grant served as a vehicle to retain and expand their operations, as well as, create new business opportunities. The businesses include the following: Lullaby Learning Center; The Thinking Child Center; The Bargain Shop, Inc.; Branch Enterprises; Chicks and Wings; Heavenly Lawn Service, Sweet Vine, Inc; and Williams Professional Lawn Service.

LULLABY LEARNING CENTER

As a result of receiving one of the \$5,000 grants, the Lullaby Learning Center, a day-care facility, was able to purchase furniture for its V.P.K, which otherwise would have remained closed. The Center was able to create one new job due to the V.P.K. Program.

According to the owner of the Lullaby Learning Center, Romy Capote, expressed

“We would have not been able to expand our operations without receiving this grant.” Ms. Capote was able to open her V.P. K. Program and hire additional staff. She hired a teacher from the new program as a result, her program won an award, and receive a grant from another entity for the programs performance.

THE THINKING CHILD CENTER

The Thinking Child Center received a grant of \$5,000 that assisted to pay the schools property taxes. The grant also afforded the exterior of the center to be painted. The newly painted building provides a fresher appearance, and Angela Pinglia, Owner of The Thinking Child, expresses that the painting of the building attracted new students and in return increasing their enrollment.

THE BARGAIN SHOP, INC.

The Bargain Shop. Inc., another grant recipient used funding to install closed circuit security cameras in their store. The cameras were geared to curtail business losses.

According to Frank Norrito, who has owned and operated the family owned business for the past 26 years, and 25 of those years in the same location, expressed the cameras have been a great deterrent against theft. The business sells small items and collectibles that shoplifters targeted. The security cameras assist in eliminating this problem.

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BRANCH ENTERPRISES

Branch Enterprises, a small Pharmacy serving the South Dade Community, used the \$5,000 grant to purchase medication. Prior to receiving the grant, Evans Branch President stated the pharmacy customarily experienced a 30 to 60 day reimbursement period from medicine and Medicaid. This process has made a negative impact on the company and financial stability, which mostly relied on these reimbursements. The grant bridged the pharmacy's cash flow until receiving healthcare reimbursements.

CHICKS AND WINGS

The restaurant business in South Florida is very competitive. It takes determination and perseverance, and sometimes that's not enough to be successful. The Trust awarded Chicks and Wings a family operated South Dade eatery, which opened its doors in 2005.

Angela Roberts, owner, stated she's involved in several civic community initiatives and understands the importance of giving back. She expressed the community has supported her business over the years and she enjoys being involved in helping the residents in South Dade. The grant awarded by the Trust enabled Angela to buy an inventory of Chicken in advance, and she was also able to pay her employees on time.

Angela has working at the eatery with all of her original employees from 2005, this is another important factor in her success. According to Angela, they all operate as a team, and it is better to keep the same employees because it takes a while to train new ones.

This year Chicks and Wings were awarded a contract as a vendor for the Super Bowl.

HEAVENLY LAWN SERVICE

Heavenly Lawn Service is a landscape company located in South Dade County, which does residential as well as, commercial landscaping. They received a \$5,000 grant to buy



Lullaby Learning Center



equipment, such as, blowers and landscaping materials.

Mr. Terrell, owner expressed the economy has impacted the company; however, he has managed to keep operating by maintaining a community customer base. Also, he has managed to maintain personnel even though he had to decrease their working schedules.

SWEET VINE, INC

Sweet Vine, Inc is an Outreach and Tutorial Program that provides afterschool assistance, mentoring, and prevention programs. Staff conducts drug prevention seminars for youth to encourage them to stay free of drugs and the ramifications of how drugs can impact on their lives, friends, and family. Program Participants range from middle to high school students. Currently, Sweet Vine is relocating to a much larger facility in order to accommodate more participants.

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Chicks and Wings



Sweet Vine has approximately 100 students and 150 students on their waiting lists. Unfortunately, they will not be able to accommodate all the students in their waiting list due to funding limitations. The \$5,000 grant was used to purchase much needed furniture for the Centers' program. Ms. Collier, president, expressed the ever-growing need in the community, and the fact that she works closely with community programs to satisfy the staff requirements. She recruits students from high schools, as well as other programs, to help with the programs by becoming mentors. Sweet Vine, Inc is a major resource that is helping students gain strides academically, socially, culturally, and artistically.

WILLIAMS PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE

Mr. Williams has been in the Lawn maintenance, and Landscaping businesses for over twenty years. Even though he has seen better times his business, he has been steady for the last few years. Mr. Williams attributes his business growth to a solid base of loyal customers. According to him, some of his customers have lost their jobs in these hard times, but always call him back once they get back on their feet. The \$5,000 grant was used to buy some lawn maintenance equipment, but its main purpose was to hire one more full-time person and a part-time person. Therefore, he was able to send them to do additional yards at the same time.

For example, in the past he had only himself and two other people and sometimes would have them work part-time, but in the summer he has to do 25 to 30 yards a day. According to Mr., Williams providing the service as soon as possible has made his customers loyal to him. These additional employees contributed to his business growth tremendously.

SDI SUMMARY

After our one year visit with these local businesses, we can see how important it is to have economic resources available to small businesses in order to assist them to stay open and to improve our economy in Miami-Dade County. By programs like The South Dade Small Business Initiative, we can better inform and assist our residents who would like to start up their businesses. In the coming year, we plan to have some informative and exciting events in the Economic Development area.

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Criminal Justice Teen Court

In alignment with program objectives, during FY07-08 and FY08-09, Miami-Dade County Teen Court provided an array of innovative interventions, strengthening its ability to remain viable, adaptable, and creative, in the arena of youth development. In an on-going basis, M-DCTC, through its peer-jury process, developed leadership skills in youth by allowing them to participate in problem solving and collaborative decision making, in handing down constructive sanctions to offenders. Alongside M-DCTC's youth-driven court sanctioning process, a myriad of educational workshops were also provided to participants, fostering positive youth development, such as: Ethics, Boot Camp Tours, Volunteer Youth Attorney Trainings, Retail Theft Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention, Peer Circle, Victim Awareness Panel, Anger Management, and other workshops, based upon stakeholder needs. Additionally, M-DCTC can be recognized for its outstanding capability in building relationships and collaborations with neighboring public and private sector entities, in bringing about the positive development of Miami-Dade county's youth.

NEW INNOVATIONS:

Beyond the level of traditional programming efforts, starting with October 2007, M-DCTC began partnership efforts with Dade County Public Schools, enabling it to launch one of its newest intervention projects—the School-Based Referral Student Court Restorative



Volunteers and MDEAT staff at Teen Court Youth Training

Justice Model. Student Court, similar to the traditional Teen Court Model, engages students in critical thinking processes, as they craft productive sanctions, for application to fellow students who break school rules. Through the school-based model, schools are provided an alternative to punitive responses such as suspension or expulsion, in addressing students who violate lower-level rules and codes of conduct. The first Student Court case was heard on February 20, 2008 at Miami Carol City Senior High School, in conjunction with the school's law magnet unit. An additional school that M-DCTC collaborated with in the Student Court effort included South Dade Senior High School. M-DCTC plans to expand the Student Court project to other public high schools within the Miami-Dade community.

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*Teen Court Conference
Workshop led by
Lysia Bowling*

In January of 2008, M-DCTC introduced one of its newest program components—Parental Referral Initiative. Parental Referral effort reflects M-DCTC’s expansion of proactive positive youth development services made available to young people. In order to participate in the project, parents concerned about the well-being of their child/children can simply voluntarily enroll them in any workshop offered by M-DCTC. This new component affords parents or guardians an opportunity to request intervention for their child, upon noticing their display of negative behavior.

On May 6, 2008, M-DCTC held its first youth conference, “Youth Speaking Out Against Violence Conference”. The conference brought together middle and high school students from various Miami-Dade public schools. Students engaged in collaborative brainstorming sessions, for the purpose of discussing violence from several fronts, and formulated recommended solutions for stemming the tide of violence affecting the community. The conference hosted an array of distinguished guest, one of which included Bishop Victor T. Curry, Senior Pastor Teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, NAACP President Miami-Dade Branch, and General Manager of WBBM Gospel AM-1490, who served as the Key-Note Speaker.

The following year, on May 18, 2009, M-DCTC held its 2nd Annual “YOUTH SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE: Creating Solutions for Change Conference” at the Hilton Miami Downtown. Conference participants consisted of more than three hundred fifty (350) individuals, to include Teen Court volunteers, student volunteers associated with the School Based Referral Student Court initiative as well as faculty from each participating school.

This year’s conference morning address was provided by Officer David Bates of Miami-Dade Police Department Community Affairs Bureau. His presentation focused on gun violence in the United States. The luncheon keynote speaker was Kionne McGhee, Esq. Youth were inspired by his motivational words which highlighted his steps to success. He challenged the youth to achieve their dreams utilizing his life as an example. Mr. McGhee stated that his hard work, hope, and determination to change his destiny revealed to him that his life experiences, taken together, were the ingredients for his success. Following his presentation youth attendees were divided into 8 different break-out sessions where they discussed the following topics and provided recommended solutions for change:

- *When Push Comes to Shove: We Can Work it Out!* - Facilitator Lysia H. Bowling Esq., Assistant Miami City Attorney and Police Legal Advisor for the City of Miami Police Department
- *Gun Violence in America* - Facilitator Officer David Bates of Miami-Dade Police Department Community Affairs Bureau
- *Will Technology Help or Hinder Your Future? Talking on Cell phones, Text Messaging, FaceBook, You Tube, Myspace, Photos, Pictures, and Video Games* (2 Workshops) - Facilitators Frank Tarrau, Teen Court Training Specialist and William Simmons, MMAP Administrative Officer

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- *Is There Violence in Your Love Relationship?* (2 Workshops) - Facilitators Dr. Pamela Green, Teen Court Psychological Coordinator, Marisela Portela, Teen Court Juvenile Services Specialist and LaVerne Carlile, Teen Court Administrator
- *Violence: Creating Solutions for Change* (2 Workshops) - Facilitators Juan Aspajo and Joseph Aleandre, Teen Court Juvenile Services Specialist

Distinguished guests attending this year's conference included Reverend Richard P. Dunn II, Senior Pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church, and Interim MMAP Trust Board Member, and Wayne Carter, Assistant Director Constituent Services, Office of the Mayor Miami-Dade County.

In addition to launching the Student Court initiative with Dade County Public Schools as well as introducing what has now become M-DCTC's annual youth conference, in FY 07-08 and FY 08-09, M-DCTC can be recognized for delivering satisfactory performance during each period for a number of reasons.

PARTICIPANT WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Anger Management

In November of 2007, M-DCTC reintroduced its Anger Management initiative, provided by Teen Court's in house Psychologist, Dr. Pamela Green. Youth participating in this workshop received psychological assessment as well as learned ways to identify anger triggers along with how to apply proactive strategies for managing anger.

Attorney Trainings

Throughout the FY 07-08 and FY 08-09 periods M-DCTC conducted various Volunteer Youth Attorney Trainings accordingly. On July 14th and 15th 2008, M-DCTC in collaboration with Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus' Upward Bound Program hosted Teen Court's



Teen Court participants

Volunteer Youth Attorney Training. More than fifty (50) youth from various Miami-Dade middle and high schools strengthened their competencies in law terminology, courtroom decorum and Teen Court's Peer-Jury process. Participants received training necessary to perform as defense and prosecuting attorney, bailiff and clerk. Special tribute was given to Kionne McGhee Esq., Assistant State Attorney of Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office for contributing his expertise in making this event a success.

On July 22nd and 23rd 2008, M-DCTC partnered with New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International's Youth Ministry in hosting Teen Court's Volunteer Youth Attorney Training. More than fifty (50) youth from surrounding Miami-Dade middle and high schools strengthened their competencies in law terminology, courtroom decorum and Teen Court's Peer-Jury process. Participants received training in performing the role of defense and prosecuting attorney, bailiff and clerk. Special tribute was given to Kisha'sha B. Sharp, Esq., of K.B. Sharp, P.A., and Kionne McGhee Esq., Assistant State Attorney of Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office for contributing their expertise in making this event a success.

On August 10th & 11th of 2009, M-DCTC in collaboration with St. Thomas University Law School provided its annual summer Volunteer

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Teen Court staff at youth event

Youth Attorney Training in the campus' Moot Courtroom. More than one hundred twenty-five (125) youth from both Dade and Broward participated and received training from legal experts in law terminology, courtroom decorum and mock trial presentations; affording youth and opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the judicial process. Youth who completed the training are qualified to serve as youth attorneys, bailiffs, and clerks in M-DCTC's peer-jury trial process at various Teen Court hearing sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

OUTREACH:

Throughout the FY 07-08 and FY 08-09 periods, M-DCTC staff engaged in numerous promotional and outreach efforts, to include conducting presentations at governmental and educational institutions, media publications and shoots; all designed to advocate against youth violence and provide knowledge and information concerning services and benefits offered by M-DCTC to youth, their families, and the community.

IN THE MEDIA

M-DCTC was featured in the March 2008 issue of Gospel Truth as well as South Florida Times newspaper.

M-DCTC's Monday night court hearings held at Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building were filmed by Miami-Dade TV. Miami-Dade TV produces original television series and special features and hosts programs produced by other county departments and agencies. M-DCTC was incorporated in one of the segment's B-Rolls shot on April 6th, 2009.

M-DCTC staff, defendant participants, youth and adult volunteers participated in MMAP Speaks Community Media Roundtable Event held at Caleb Center. Participation in this effort afforded M-DCTC an opportunity to showcase program benefits to those in attendance as well as individuals listening in on the broadcast via radio. During the event, Mr. Leonard Thompson, student participating in Miami Carol City's Law Magnet program, and former attendee at Teen Court's "YOUTH SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE" Conference held on May 6, 2008, represented the Teen Speaker's Bureau and shared youth formulated recommended actions for reducing violence in the community, resulting from the conference. M-DCTC's Teen Speakers' Bureau was created to allow students various dialoging platforms for voicing their views on issues impacting youth.

On June 10, 2009, as a spin off from M-DCTC's 2nd Annual "YOUTH SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE" Conference: Creating Solutions for Change, held at the Hilton Miami Downtown, Teen Court was solicited by Sasha Andrade, Reporter from WPLG Local 10 News to provide a story under the caption of how "Teen Court Empowers Students". The filming took place at St. Thomas University's Moot Courtroom, and resulted from Teen Court's collaboration with St. Thomas University's School of Law, Miami Carol City Senior High School's Law Magnet Program, and a host of other partnering local high schools. The story aired on June 16, 2009 during the 6:00 a.m. and noon news segments, where Teen Court

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youth volunteer Leonard Thompson, of Miami Carol City Senior High School and Silver Knight Award winner was featured, along with other M-DCTC youth volunteers such as Omar Cancio, of Miami Senior High School; also a Silver Knight Award winner.

NEWSLETTER KICKOFF

On February 2009, the agency's Office of Public Information and Marketing division, collaborating with M-DCTC staff provided the program's first issue of Teen Court Making a Difference in Teens' Lives Newsletter. The Winter 2009 newsletter highlighted program strengths and other news worthy information, affirming M-DCTC as a viable youth diversion program, instrumental in developing today's teens for tomorrow's leadership.

TEEN OUTREACH

On October 29th 2007, M-DCTC conducted a Teen Court presentation to six-hundred sixty-eight (668) youth attending Hammocks Middle School. This year marked the fourth consecutive year that the orientation has been held in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. The presentation served as a preventative tool aimed at specifically orienting students about the dangers of substance abuse—a workshop provided through Teen Court. The following month on November 16, 2007, M-DCTC conducted a presentation to approximately eighty-one (81) students in grades seventh and eight attending Mays Middle School. In addition to sharing information about Teen Court, students were oriented concerning the dangers of substance abuse and other challenges that jeopardize youths' safety.

In October 2008, Anthony Williams, Division Director of M-DCTC conducted an orientation at Miami Douglas Macarthur Senior High School North's Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic Development program. Approximately nineteen (19)



young men were educated about the Teen Court process as well as provided tips in crime prevention and the benefits of making good decisions.

City and County officials at Teen Court Conference

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On January 29, 2008, M-DCTC conducted an orientation with Marisa Wedges, Youth Director of New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International and Rejohan Perkins, Assistant Youth Director. M-DCTC staff presented one of its newest program components, Parental Referral. Parental Referral component reflects M-DCTC's expansion of positive youth development services to young people. This new component affords parents or guardians an opportunity to request intervention for their child, upon noticing their display of negative behavior.

Later in the summer on June 28, 2008, M-DCTC partnered with Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department's Violence Intervention Project (VIP) held at Elizabeth Virrick Park Coconut Grove, Florida. This VIP session, one of many held throughout the tri-county area, was co-hosted by Juvenile Services Department (JSD) and Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. The event was held in collaboration with the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, and 99 JAMZ.

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*Thailand officials with
MDEAT Executive
Director John E. Dixon, Jr.*

The forum provided a dialoguing platform for youth, faith-based, judicial community and others interested in gaining a better understanding of hip-hop music's impact on youth behavior.

In 2009 on June 26th, In alignment with M-DCTC's outreach efforts, M-DCTC collaborated with The Youth Violence Prevention Coalition (YVPC), an innovation of the City of Opa-Locka, spearheaded by Commissioner Dorothy Johnson. During the event, Teen Court staff provided an overview of M-DCTC's peer-jury trial process as well as presented the following violence prevention mini-workshop sessions: (1) Violence-Creating Solution for Change; (2) Violence in Relationships; and (3) Ethics to approximately seventy-two (72) youth attendees. The following month, on July 17, 2009, M-DCTC participated with the City of Miami's Summer Camp Program in an activity held at the Black Police Officer Museum in Overtown.

The Boy Scout Troop 83 visited Teen Court's South court operation on July 28th held at the South Dade Government Center. A total of twenty-two (22) young men, ages 5 to 17, along with Ms. Mary, Trujillo, Troop leader and others, received an orientation on the M-DCTC peer-jury trial diversion process, and its relation to the traditional juve-

nile court system. In line with this orientation process, guests were afforded an opportunity to view Teen Court in action by observing a hearing.

On August 1, 2009, M-DCTC staff participated in the Back to School Health & Safety Fair held at Gibson Park in Overtown. Then on August 4, 2009, M-DCTC staff joined with the City of Miami Police Department and participated in its' 26th Annual National Night Out held at Bayfront Park in Downtown Miami. The occasion was provided to encourage community residents to enjoy a night of entertainment and festivities in a safe and secure environment.

Later on August 5, 2009, M-DCTC staff participated in the Community Jobs & Resource Fair held at the Firefighters Memorial Building.

And in, mid-September, on the 19th, various Teen Court administrative, training, and case management staff participated in the Greater Empowerment Through Helping Young People Engage (G.E.T.H.Y.P.E.) event sponsored by the City of Homestead's Mayor's Youth Council.

VISITORS FROM ABROAD

M-DCTC welcomed, on August 3, 2009, the Thailand delegation on juvenile justice to view its' peer-jury trial process held at the Richard E. Gerstein Courthouse, in Downtown Miami. This effort was provided to the Thailand officials as a result of collaboration between M-DCTC and Miami-Dade's Juvenile Services Department (JSD). The groups' interest involved identifying and adopting a best practice model that can serve as intervention for reducing juvenile arrests in their country.

LEARNING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In alignment with program performance achievement requirements, throughout the FY 07-08 and 08-09 periods, M-DCTC staff

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participated in various workshops and trainings, designed to build staff capacity, enabling them to improve their ability to better serve the program's targeted population.

August 12, 2008, M-DCTC staff attended the 5th Annual Gang Summit "Confronting Gang Violence Through Community Collaboration". Annually this event brings together practitioners from varied professions such as criminal justice and law enforcement, education, the judiciary, social services, etc., to formulate timely prevention and intervention strategies to address gang activity in the Miami-Dade County community.

In the Fall of 2008, on October 9th, Anthony Williams, Division Director, Dr. Pamela Green, Psychological Services Coordinator, and LaVerne Carlile, Teen Court Administrator attended an In-Service training held at Teen Court of Sarasota.

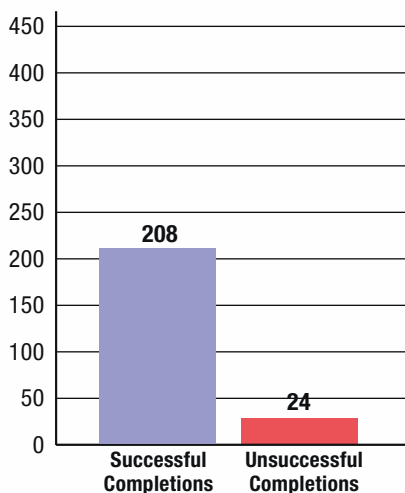
Later on November 11th and 12th 2008, LaVerne Carlile, Teen Court Administrator and Dr. Pamela Green, Psychological Services Coordinator, attended National Associa-

tion of Youth Courts (NAYC) Annual Meeting/Conference, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The NAYC Mixing it up in Albuquerque conference provided an array of workshops aimed at strengthening attendees' capacities in the following areas: (1) Youth Court 101; (2) Emerging Trends/Issues for Experienced Youth Courts; (3) Constructive Dispositions; (4) State Associations; (5) Building Blocks for Behavioral Change; and (6) "What's Next?—The Future is Bright Ahead!"

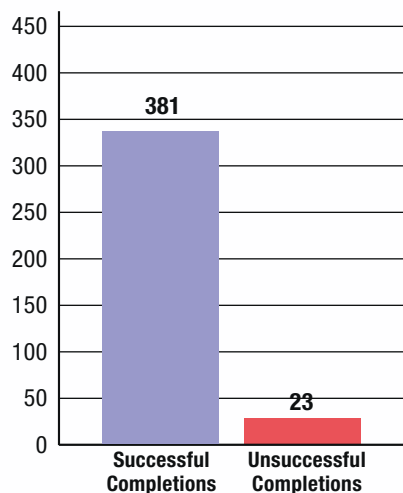
The next summer, on August 21, 2009, Teen Court staff attended the 6th Annual Gang Summit "Our Community, Our Solution" sponsored by the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council, begun in February of 2003. The summit brought together a cadre of professionals from the criminal justice, educational, judiciary, social services arenas and the like, to share knowledge and information concerning gang-related challenges. Further, professionals discussed innovative intervention and prevention strategies to better address gang activity throughout Miami-Dade

Teen Court Completion Results

Fiscal Year 2007-2008



Fiscal Year 2008-2009



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Advocacy

COMMUNITY SPEAKS DURING MEDIA ROUNDTABLE

After many years of collaborating and sharing information with residents of this community, the music stopped on Hot 105 and WEDR 99 JAMZ while elected officials, public and private sector representatives, and concerned citizens, were given an opportunity to voice their concerns during The MMAP Speaks Community Media Roundtable.

Tom Joyner addresses crowd during Media Roundtable



It was Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. during a live broadcast, hosted by none other than our local Dean of Radio, Jerry Rushin, along with Traci Cloyd and Cheryl Mizell to help deliver The STATE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY at the Joseph Caleb Center Auditorium, 5400 NW 22nd Avenue. A special guest appearance was made by syndicated “Morning Show” host Tom Joyner who spoke and took photos with participants.

By using the power of the local airwaves, lively discussions surrounding critical issues in criminal justice, economic development,

education, employment, health and human services, attainable housing, jobs, transportation, the Dade County Charter, The F.C.A.T. and many other issues were addressed. A youth panel with Leonard Thompson, Student, Carol City HS Law Magnet and Teen Court Program Participant, and Sam Agbeyegbe, Founder & Jr. FIU Miami-Gardens Progressive Young Adults spoke regarding their future and impressed the audience with their candid opinions about their peers.

The stage was reset with the arrival of The Honorable Kendrick Meek, United States Congressman, House of Representatives, 17th District, Florida, and Former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. They discussed with the community and radio listeners a host of topics leading to how federal, state, and local budget processes will have a major effect on local governments, corporations, businesses, citizens, and our youth for many years to come and citizens should get involved.

Booths were also available and provided the following services: Department of Elections registered voters, and citizens received demonstrations on the new Blended System voting machines; Miami-Dade County Dial-A-Life Program collected used cell phones and distributed working cell phones to citizens that fit the criteria; Florida Memorial University’s Entrepreneurial Institute utilized their Economic Development Mobile Unit which offered technical assistance and seminars important to business start-ups and expansions - all of this at no cost to the client; Health Choice Network provided cardiovascular and other health screenings free of charge; banks provided information on mortgage subsidy programs and foreclosure initiatives; and

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Zamora Homes, Team Metro, South Florida Workforce – Van, People United To Lead The Struggle For Equality (PULSE), NAACP, Miami-Dade County Police Department, and Marie Gill, were also present to assist the community with services.

Over 200,000 listeners heard the four-hour live radio broadcast and it was a premiere event for the agency and its community out-reach efforts.

SOUTH DADE HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVE

On December 14, 2007 Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) and AvMed Health Plans sponsored The South Dade Health and Wellness Initiative. The event was held at the Second Baptist Church, 11111 Pinkston Drive, Miami, FL 33176 (Richmond Heights). from 9 am – 12 noon at

The event was free to the public and featured local dignitaries as well as corporate guest speakers. Dr. Nelson L. Adams was honored as the current President of the National Medical Association. In addition, the past Mayor of Homestead, the Honorable Mayor Roscoe Warren received a life-time achievement award for his dedicated service to the City of Homestead.

“The Metro-Miami Action Plan’s South Dade Initiative” has been instrumental in terms of delivering economic development and affordable housing resources to the community. As we close on this year’s activities, we now focus on the important area of health.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

In most cases there is a reason why Students act out in school and sometimes find



Dr. Nelson Adams with resident at the South Dade Wellness Initiative

themselves involved in criminal activity. As a result, MDEAT provides psychological and psycho-educational services to Teen Court participants and their families. The goal of the psychological services unit is to intervene as soon as possible in order to prevent further involvement in the justice system, improve school performance, reduce acting-out behavior thereby increasing the youth’s potential for success. Psychological Services offered by Teen Court helps build self-esteem and productive family relationships.

The Teen Court psychologist provides professional psychological services including: Individual Therapy, Family Counseling, Parenting Skills and Psychological Evaluations. Psychological Evaluations will be conducted to determine a client’s current level of cognitive and emotional functioning. Through an analysis of the youth’s strengths and weakness appropriate educational and treatment plans will be developed. Parenting Skills and Family therapy will be provided to increase parenting skills and enhance appropriate family functioning where needed.

This all takes place in a private and confidential setting. This resource has proven to help students get on the right track in school, giving back to the community, and their enhanced participation within the family structure.

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Financial Reports

Administrative / Programmatic Funding Sources

Fiscal year 2007-2008

DIVISION	SOURCE	AMOUNT
Administration	General Fund	\$774,000
Economic Development	General Fund	\$580,000
Teen Court	\$3.00 Surcharge on Moving Tickets Violations	\$1,924,000
Housing Assistance Program	8% Documentary Stamp Surtax on Commercial Transactions	\$5,269,000
TOTAL		\$8,547,000

Fiscal year 2008-2009

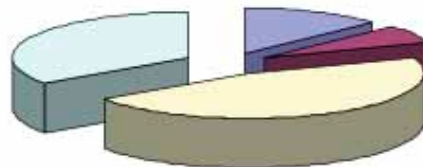
DIVISION	SOURCE	AMOUNT
Administration	General Fund	\$667,000
Economic Development	General Fund	\$330,000
Teen Court	\$3.00 Surcharge on Moving Tickets Violations	\$2,334,000
Housing Assistance Program	8% Documentary Stamp Surtax on Commercial Transactions	\$1,780,000
TOTAL		\$5,111,000

Budget Distribution

Fiscal year 2007/2008



Fiscal year 2008/2009



- Administration
- Teen Court
- Economic Development
- Housing Assistance Program

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Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust's MMAP-Housing Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2007/08 vs 2008/09

General Statistics	as of September 2008	as of September 2009
Total Applicants	112	253
Total Loans	93	224
Total MMAP Funding	\$841,347.00	\$1,484,647.00
Estimated Increase to Tax Base (funded*)	\$232,500.00	\$560,000.00

*based on \$2500/yr annual real estate tax

Head of Household Loans	No. Funded	%	No. Funded	%
Female	59	63.44%	124	55.36%
Male	34	36.56%	100	44.64%
Total	93	100.00%	224	100.00%

Ethnicity Loans (Funded)

Black	56	60.22%	105	46.88%
Hispanic	33	35.48%	107	47.77%
White	1	1.08%	10	4.46%
Other	3	3.23%	2	0.89%
Total	93	100.00%	224	100.00%

Median Income Level Loans

Very Low	23	24.73%	32	14.29%
Low	32	34.41%	97	43.30%
Median Moderate	38	40.86%	95	42.41%
Total	93	100.00%	224	100.00%

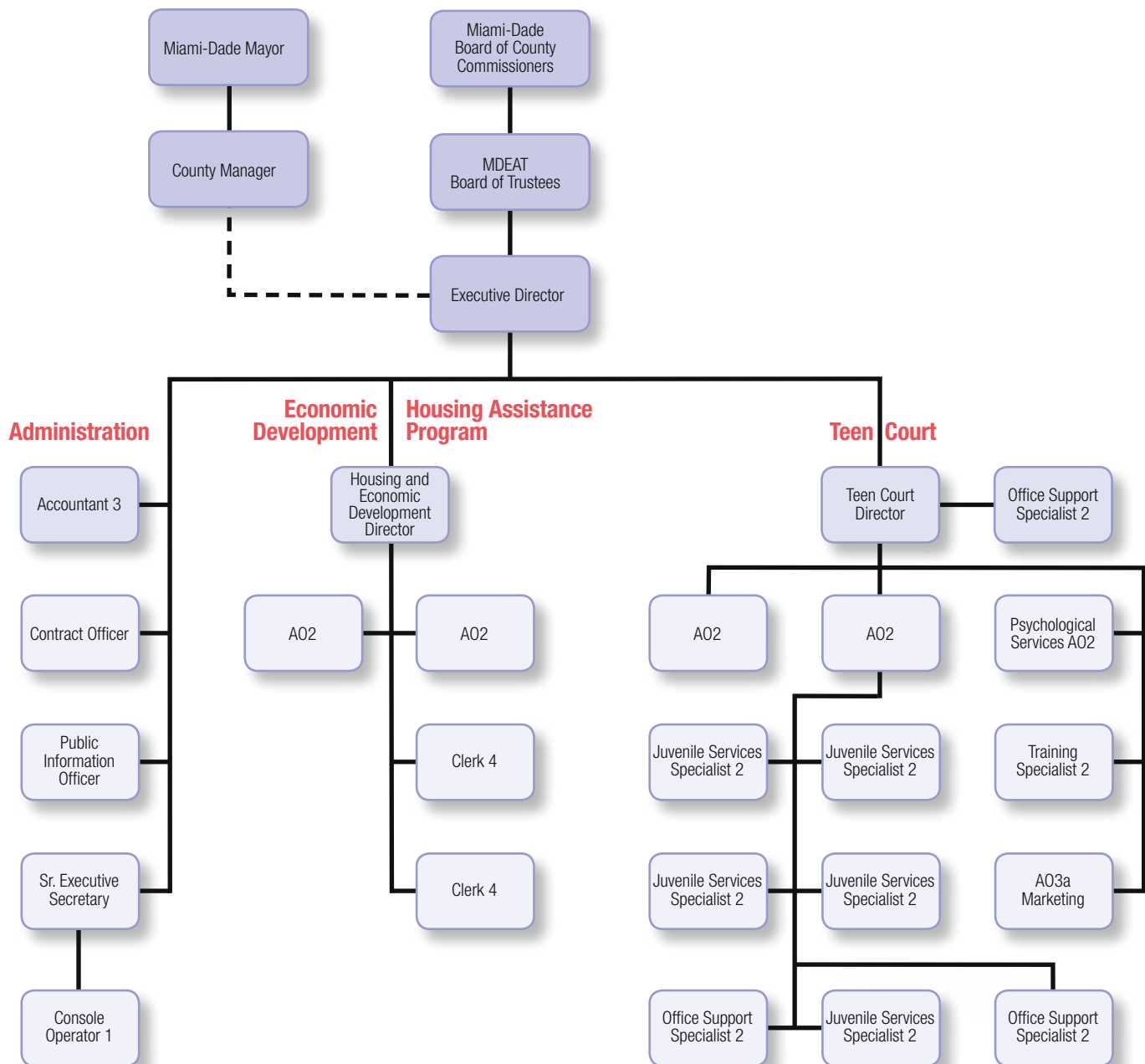
Commission District Loans

District 1	33	35.48%	67	29.91%
District 2	23	24.73%	26	11.61%
District 3	15	16.13%	40	17.86%
District 4	1	1.08%	1	0.45%
District 5	1	1.08%	2	0.89%
District 6	1	1.08%	6	2.68%
District 7	1	1.08%	2	0.89%
District 8	6	6.45%	34	15.18%
District 9	3	3.23%	30	13.39%
District 10	4	4.30%	4	1.79%
District 11	3	3.23%	1	0.45%
District 12	0	0.00%	8	3.57%
District 13	2	2.15%	3	1.34%
Total	93	100.00%	224	100.00%

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Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust Organizational Chart

Fiscal Years 2007-08 and 2008-09





Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

Board of County Commissioners

Barbara J. Jordan, District 1; Jean Monestime, District 2; Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairman, District 3; Sally A. Heyman, District 4; Bruno A. Barreiro, District 5; Rebeca Sosa, District 6; Carlos A. Giménez, District 7; Lynda Bell, District 8; Dennis C. Moss, District 9; Senator Javier D. Souto, District 10; Joe A. Martínez, Chairman, District 11; José "Pepe" Díaz, Vice Chairman, District 12; Natacha Seijas, District 13

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts; Pedro J. Garcia, Property Appraiser; George M. Burgess, County Manager; Robert A. Cuevas Jr., County Attorney

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Back Cover Photos

First row, left to right:

Economic Development Initiatives: Assisted with the 1999 opening of Denny's Restaurant located in South Dade-CoCo Walk, near MetroZoo;

Assisted with the 1998 opening of the North Dade Federal Credit Union located in The City of Miami Gardens, Beverly Coffee, Manager;

Housing Assistance Program: HAP Lottery winners conduct interview with WPLG Channel 10, HAP Housing Lottery drawing held in Liberty City.

Second row, left to right:

Teen Court Program: Bishop Victor T. Curry encourages youth during Teen Court Conference; Leonard Thompson and Omar Cancio receive Teen Court awards at annual conference before going off to college;

Community Outreach: Ron Horton, Hot 105 and Kionne McGhee, Assistant State Attorney chat during community event, Dr. Robert Ingram and Andre Eggleston discuss topics before the monthly Coffee Talk Community Radio Show.



Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust

19 West Flagler Street • Suite M-106

Miami, Florida 33130

T 305-372-7600 • F 305-579-3699

www.miamidade.gov